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 FM THE SITUATION ROOM //TOHAK 32//

TO GOMPERT/RODMAN FOR THE SECRETARY

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TOHAK 32

NEWS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA: NEWS

PENTAGON RELEASED FINAL CASUALTY LIST ON MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT

THE PENTAGON TUESDAY ANNOUNCED CASUALTY FIGURES FOR THE BATTLE OF TANG ISLAND, LISTING 15 SERVICEMEN KILLED, 3 MISSING AND 50 WOUNDED IN ACTION, TWO OF THEM IN SERIOUS CONDITION. THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT DESCRIBED THE FIGURES AS "AS CLOSE TO FINAL AS POSSIBLE" NBC REPORTED.

PENTAGON SPOKESMAN JOSEPH LAITIN SAID (ON ABC FILM) THE FIGURES HAD BEEN SUBSTANTIATED BY THE THREE SERVICES AS OF MID-AFTERNOON TUESDAY AND ARE CONSIDERED ACCURATE BY THEM.

LAITIN (ON CBS FILM) SAID REGARDING THE BODIES OF THE THREE MISSING MARINES: "DETAILS ARE STILL A LITTLE SKETCHY ON THAT ... ACCORDING TO EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS THERE IS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT THEY ARE ALIVE." ASKED IF HE THOUGHT THE MISSING MEN MIGHT HAVE BEEN CAPTURED, HE REPLIED, "I THINK THERE IS VERY LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF THAT --- CERTAINLY WITH TWO AND PROBABLY WITH THE THIRD," UPI REPORTED.

OF THE DEAD, 13 WERE KILLED IN AN AIR FORCE HELICOPTER THAT CRASHED 100 FEET OFF TANG ISLAND. ONE WAS AN AIR FORCE CREWMAN ON A HELICOPTER TRYING TO GET AWAY FROM THE ISLAND WHEN IT WAS HIT AND WENT DOWN TWO MILES OUT AT SEA. THE 15TH WAS A MARINE KILLED ON THE ISLAND. -- AP; UPI; NETWORKS (5/20/75)

PENTAGON DOESN'T HAVE FACTS ON CAMBODIAN SHIP SURRENDER

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THE PENTAGON SAID THESDAY IT DOESNIT HAVE ANY FACTS ON WHETHER A CAMBODIAN NAVY BOAT WHICH WAS SURRENDERED TO THAI AUTHORITIES HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN THE SEIZURE OF THE U.S. FREIGHTER MAYAGUEZ.

PENTAGON SPOKESMAN JOSEPH LAITIN SAID HE HAD HEARD THAT AS THE BOAT APPROACHED SATTAPHI IN THAILAND IT RADIOED IN AND CLAIMED IT HAD SEIZED THE MAYAGUEZ. LAITIN SAID HE COULD NOT CONFIRM THIS AND SAID HE HAD NOT SEEN ANY OFFICIAL EVIDENCE THAT WOULD CONFIRM REPORTS THAT THE CREW OF THE CAMBODIAN BOAT HAD MUTINIED AGAINST ITS OFFICERS BEFORE LOOKING FOR ASYLUM IN THAILAND.

LAITIN SPOKE AFTER THE THAI NAVY IN BANGKOK ISSUED A ONE-SENTENCE STATEMENT SAYING IT HAD IMPOUNDED A GUNBOAT FLYING THE FLAG OF THE OUSTED CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT AND DISARMED AND DETAINED 10 CREW MEMBERS, AP REPORTED. AP; UPI; NETWORKS (5/20/75)

U.S. MARINES WHO HELPED FREE MAYAGUEZ ARRIVE IN PHILIPPINES

THE U.S. MARINES WHO TOOK PART IN THE OPERATION TO FREE THE MERCHANT SHIP MAYAGUEZ ARRIVED AT SUBIC BAY IN THE PHILIPPINES TUESDAY. FIFTEEN OF THEM WHO WERE WOUNDED RECEIVED PURPLE HEART DECORATIONS AS THE SHIPS DOCKED. -- ABC (5/20/75)

COMMUNIST PATHET LAOS TROOPS ENTER SAVANNAKHET

COMMUNIST-LED PATHET LAOS TROOPS TUESDAY ENTERED THE LAST REMAINING MAJOR NON-COMMUNIST TOWN IN LAOS, SAVANNAKHET. THE DOZEN AMERICANS INCLUDING THREE AID OFFICIALS BEING HELD THERE WERE REPORTED SAFE AND WELL BUT THEIR FUTURE WAS UNCERTAIN. THE TAKE-OVER WAS PEACEFUL; THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS CHEERED THE PATHET LAO, NBC REPORTED. -- AP; UPI; NETWORKS (5/20/75)

INTERNATIONAL: NEWS

MORE POLITICAL FIGHTING ERUPTS IN BEIRUT

IN SUBURBAN BEIRUT, THERE WAS NEW FIGHTING TUESDAY BETWEEN PALESTINIAN COMMANDOS AND RIGHT WING FALANGIST. AT LEAST FOUR WERE KILLED. -- NBC; CBS (5/20/75)

LISBON GOVERNMENT SEIZES LAST REMAINING NON-COMMUNIST NEWS-PAPER

THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT TUESDAY SHUT DOWN THE LAST

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REMAINING NON-COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER IN LISBON, WHICH IT SAID WILL REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL A COURT RULES ON THE SEIZURE OF THE PAPER BY COMMUNIST WORKERS. -- NBC (5/20/75)

SATO REMAINS IN CRITICAL CONDITION

FORMER JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER SATO, IN CRITICAL CONDITION FROM A STROKE SUFFERED MONDAY, IS STILL IN THE TOKYO RESTAURANT WHERE HE WAS STRICKEN BECAUSE DOCTORS ARE AFRAID TO MOVE HIM. -- ABC; NBC (5/20/75)

BOLIVIA WILL CRIMINALLY PROSECUTE GULF OIL

BOLIVIA'S MILITARY GOVERNMENT, DEEPLY EMBARRASSED BY THE GULF OIL BRIBERY SCANDAL, ANNOUNCED TUESDAY, IT WILL CRIMINALLY PROSECUTE THE FIRM. IT ISSUED A SUMMONS FOR GULF PRESIDENT BOB DORSEY TO APPEAR IN COURT IN LA PAZ. GULF'S LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE, CARLOS DORADO CHOPITEA WAS PLACED UNDER HOUSE ARREST. -- AP; NETWORKS (5/20/75)

FOREIGN POLICY: NEWS

NEWS

KISSINGER-GROMYKO TALKS END WITH COOPERATION ON MIDDLE EAST

SECRETARY KISSINGER AND SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREI GROMYKO AGREED TUESDAY TO WORK OUT A COOPERATIVE APPROACH TO HOLDING A MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE IN GENEVA, A SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL IN KISSINGER'S PARTY SAID ABOARD THE SECRETARY'S PLANE FLYING FROM VIENNA TO BONN. "BUT IT WAS NOT CLEAR HOW THEY WOULD COOPERATE," RICHARD VAERIANI (NBC) REPORTED.

FOR FIVE AND A HALF HOURS (NBC/CRS SAID SIX) THE SOVIET AND AMERICAN NEGOTIATING TEAMS EDGED THEIR WAY TOWARD A NEW STRATEGIC ARMS AGREEMENT, TED KOPPEL (ABC) REPORTED. THE TENTATIVE TARGET DATE FOR COMPLETION, KOPPEL SAID IS OCTOBER. VALERIANI SAID KISSINGER CAME AWAY MORE CONFIDENT THAN BEFORE THAT AN AGREEMENT ON LIMITING OFFENSIVE WEAPONS WOULD BE READY IN TIME FOR A WASHINGTON SUMMIT THIS FALL.

KISSINGER, ON ABC FILM, SAID: I CAN SAY NOW THAT WE AGREED TO MEET AGAIN IN THE NEAR FUTURE FOR A FURTHER DETAILED REVIEW OF THE STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS, THE PROSPECTS OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND OTHER MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST." GROMYKO ON (ABC FILM) SAID: "I AGREE WITH THE SECRETARY."

ON NBC, KISSINGER SAID: "ON THE WHOLE, I AM SATISFIED WITH THE VISIT HERE, AND I LEAVE WITH CONVICTION THAT

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RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION ARE ESSENTIAL FOR THE PRESERVATION OF PEACE AND FOR THE PROGRESS OF MANKIND AND THAT THEY WILL DO THEIR UTMOST TO KEEP THEM ON COURSE."

KISSINGER (ON CBS FILM) SAID ON EMERGING FROM THE MEETING: "THE TALKS WERE USEFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE."

KISSINGER NEXT TRAVELLED TO GERMANY TO FULFILL A PROMISE TO VISIT WEST BERLIN AND TO BRIEF WEST GERMAN LEADERS ON THE GROMYKO TALKS--"WHICH TURNED OUT TO BE ESSENTIALLY A HOLDING ACTION," VALERIANI REPORTED. MARVIN KALB (CBS) REPORTED "KISSINGER'S STOP IN BONN IS REALLY A WAY STATION ON THE ROAD TO WEST BERLIN, WHICH KISSINGER WILL VISIT WEDNESDAY, "MUCH TO GROMYKO'S UNHAPPINESS."

"NO DECISIONS ARE POSSIBLE ON THE ARMS TALKS UNTIL AFTER EACH GOVERNMENT REVIEWS THE LATEST IDEAS OF THE OTHER," VALERIANI SAID. "AND THE US WANTED TO PUT OFF A DECISION ON THE MIDDLE EAST UNTIL AFTER PRESIDENT FORD HAS MET WITH ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN LEADERS NEXT MONTH. SO, KISSINGER AND GROMYKO WILL GET TOGETHER AGAIN IN EARLY JULY TO TRY TO MAKE SOME MEASURABLE PROGRESS ON THESE ISSUES."

KOPPEL SAID THAT FOR THE PAST YEAR AND A HALF KISSINGER HAS TRIED TO EXCLUDE THE SOVIETS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS. "HE MAY HAVE TOTALLY GIVEN UP YET ON SEPARATE AMERICAN PEACE INITIATIVES," KOPPEL SAID, "BUT THE SESSION IN THE NEAR FUTURE WITH GROMYKO DOESN'T GIVE KISSINGER MUCH TIME FOR INDIVIDUAL DIPLOMACY."

KOPPEL SAID SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIALS ARE STILL INSISTING THAT NO FINAL DECISIONS ON AMERICA'S MIDDLE EAST REASSESSMENT WILL BE REACHED UNTIL AFTER PRESIDENT FORD MEETS WITH EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI LEADERS. "BUT THESE SAME OFFICIALS INDICATE THAT A SPIRIT OF SOVIET-AMERICAN COOPERATION IS NOW SHAPING UP ON GENEVA, EVEN THOUGH THEY INSIST THAT COMPROMISE ON THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE WILL HAVE TO COME FROM THE SOVIET SIDE." -- AP, UPI, NETWORKS (5/20/75)

SENATORS PLAN FULL DEBATE ON ROLE OF U.S. IN WORLD
BY JOHN H. AVERILL (EXCERPTED FROM THE L.A. TIMES)

A GROUP OF SENATORS LED BY ALAN CRANSTON (D. CALIF) AND BARRY GOLDWATER (R. ARIZ.) ARE ORGANIZING A SENATE DEBATE ON WHAT U.S. OVERSEAS COMMITMENTS SHOULD BE AND WHAT MILITARY FORCES ARE NEEDED TO HONOR THEM.

"IN THE AFTERMATH OF VIETNAM, THERE IS AN IMPERATIVE

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NEED FOR A REEXAMINATION OF THE ROLE OF OUR COUNTRY IN OUR WORLD," CRANSTON AND GOLDWATER SAID IN A LETTER SENT TO ALL SENATORS.

THEY HAVE ARRANGED FOR A TWO-DAY DEBATE BEGINNING JUNE 2 IN CONNECTION WITH SENATE CONSIDERATION OF THIS YEAR'S \$25 BILLION DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL FOR MILITARY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND FOR PROCUREMENT OF NEW WEAPONS.

CRANSTON SAID IN AN INTERVIEW THAT TO THIS KNOWLEDGE IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THE ENTIRE SENATE HAD BEEN ASKED TO REVIEW THE FULL RANGE OF THIS COUNTRY'S FOREIGN COMMITMENTS AND WHAT MILITARY RESOURCES WERE NEEDED.

ALTHOUGH GOLDWATER AND CRANSTON HAVE DIFFERED STRONGLY IN THE PAST ON U.S. DEFENSE NEEDS, CRANSTON SAID HE AND OTHERS WHO HAVE BEEN DEFENSE SPENDING CRITICS IN THE PAST WERE LESS INCLINED THIS YEAR BECAUSE OF VIETNAM TO SEEK ANY LARGE-SCALE REDUCTIONS. CRANSTON SAID THERE ALSO IS A LESSER INCLINATION THIS YEAR TO SEEK REDUCTIONS IN U.S. FORCES STATIONED IN WESTERN EUROPE AND ELSEWHERE. (5/20/75)

CONGRESS : NEWS

NEWS

EFFORT TO CUT U.S. TROOPS BY 70,000 REJECTED BY HOUSE

AN EFFORT TO CUT U.S. TROOPS BY 70,000 WORLDWIDE WAS OVERWHELMINGLY REJECTED BY THE HOUSE TUESDAY, AMID FEAR THE REDUCTIONS WOULD BE READ BY ALLIES AS A GENERAL RETREAT FROM U.S. COMMITMENTS.

THE PROPOSED CUT, BEATEN 311 TO 95, WAS AN AMENDMENT TO A \$32 BILLION WEAPONS BILL. BUT THE HOUSE APPROVED, 303 TO 96, OPENING MILITARY ACADEMIES TO WOMEN.

MEANWHILE, THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE TUESDAY WARNED AGAINST ANY MORE CUTS IN AMERICAN MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE PACIFIC--PARTICULARLY IN SOUTH KOREA--UNTIL THE NATION DEVELOPS A CLEAR POST-VIETNAM ASIAN POLICY. --AP;UPI (5/20/75)

TOWER DEFENSE TURKEY AID VOTE; NOT A KISSINGER VICTORY, SAYS BRADENAS

CONCERNING THE SENATE'S VOTE MONDAY TO LIFT THE TURKISH AID EMBARGO, SEN. JOHN TOWER (R., TEX.) SAID MONDAY: "WE MIGHT SAY THAT OTHER NATIONS HAVE PERHAPS VIOLATED THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT BUT HAVE NOT BEEN SINGLED OUT FOR DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT THE WAY TURKEY HAS. AND WE HAVE SINGLED OUT A

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COUNTRY THAT HAS BEEN A STRONG AND USEFUL ALLY."

REP. JOHN BRADENAS (D., IND.) SAID HE WOULD BE "ASTONISHED" IF SECRETARY KISSINGER INTERPRETED THE VOTE AS A GREAT MORAL VICTORY.

"IF THE TURKS WANT ARMS TO COME AGAIN, THEY MUST MAKE SOME SUBSTANTIAL CONCESSIONS ON CYPRUS PARTICULARLY OF HUMANITARIAN KIND INVOLVING THE REFUGEES. SO ALTHOUGH THE SENATE HAS VOTED IN AGREEMENT WITH THE ADMINISTRATION POSITION BY 41 TO 40, AS I'VE SAID, THAT IS NOT EVEN A MAJORITY OF THE SENATE," BRADENAS SAID ON NBE FILM. "ABC'S AM AMERICA; NBC TODAY SHOW (5/20/75)

INDOCHINA: COMMENT

COMMENT

A LONG WAIT FOR THE CASUALTY LIST
(EDITORIAL, EXCERPTED FROM NEWSDAY)

THE FORD ADMINISTRATION'S HANDLING OF THE CASUALTY FIGURES AFTER THE MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT SUGGESTS THAT ATTITUDES TOWARD ORCHESTRATING THE NEWS HAVEN'T CHANGED MUCH IN WASHINGTON.

THE PROGRESSIVE LENGTHENING OF THE CASUALTY LIST IN THE DAYS FOLLOWING THE MARINE'S ASSAULT ON TANG ISLAND MAY NOT HAVE OCCURRED ACCORDING TO A TIMETABLE, BUT THE DELAY IN RELEASING ACCURATE FIGURES FITTED IN WITH THE ADMINISTRATION'S NEEDS. WHEN FORD WENT BEFORE THE TELEVISION CAMERAS AFTER MIDNIGHT WEDNESDAY, HE DIDN'T TALK ABOUT CASUALTIES; HE TOLD THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WHAT THEY WANTED TO HEAR--THAT THE CREW OF THE MAYAGUEZ HAD BEEN RESCUED, AND FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS NO ONE IN THE WHITE HOUSE, THE STATE DEPARTMENT OR THE PENTAGON STEPPED FORWARD TO SPOIL THE EFFECT OF THAT BY ADMITTING THAT RECOVERING THE 39 CREWMEN HAD COST THE LIVES OF 21 KNOWN OR PRESUMED DEAD.

THE ADMINISTRATION EVIDENTLY CHOSE TO ERR ON THE SIDE OF OPTIMISM UNTIL THE REJOICING OVER THE RESCUE WAS IN FULL SWING. IN SHORT, CANDOR TOOK A BACK SEAT TO PUBLIC RELATIONS.

FOREIGN POLICY: COMMENT

COMMENT

TOWARD A POST-VIETNAM POLICY
(EDITORIAL, EXCERPTED FROM THE BALTIMORE SUN)

SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S VIEWS, IN A RECENT U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT INTERVIEW, IF PERMANENTLY ADOPTED, WOULD SUGGEST

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A SHIFT TOWARD A MORE HAWKISH READINESS TO USE U.S. MILITARY POWER MASSIVELY THAN WAS THE CASE DURING THE VIETNAM WAR. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE LIMITED STEP-BY-STEP INVOLVEMENT STRATEGY OF THE JOHNSON-MCNAMEARA ERA WAS DISCREDITED WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME. BUT WHAT CONGRESS MUST CONSIDER CAREFULLY IS WHETHER THE ONLY LASTING ALTERNATIVE IS THE QUINTESSENTIAL PENTAGON STRATEGY ENUNCIATED BY SCHLESINGER. MANY AMERICANS WHO OPPOSED THE VIETNAM WAR ARE PROBABLY NOT READY TO SEE THIS STRATEGY ADOPTED ON THE BASIS OF THE EMOTIONS AROUSED BY THE MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT. IF THE NATION IS TO HAVE A "GREAT DEBATE" ON FOREIGN POLICY AND SECURITY THAT MEANS SOMETHING, ITS LEGISLATORS SHOULD SEE WHETHER OTHER ALTERNATIVES ARE AVAILABLE THAT WOULD PROVIDE MORE HOPE OF A PEACEFUL WORLD.

(5/20/75)

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